

From: Daniel Downey
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

Sirs:

I endorse the current proposal by the presiding judge: Microsoft pays a cash settlement of a billion dollars, which is distributed among public educational institutions. Needy public elementary, middle, and high schools are suitable.

In keeping with the antimonopolistic philosophy of the judge, the schools would be free to purchase computers and software that are in alignment with their current or planned Information Technology business plan, not Microsoft's. This might be Intel / Windows products, or it might be Apple Macintosh products; the choice is up to the schools.

Microsoft's proposal of distribution of software and used computers simply allows them yet another inroad toward a new monopoly in the education market. What's worse is that donated aging computers will carry a hidden extra expense of maintenance and upgrades (Microsoft's, of course), which school districts are often ill-equipped to support.

Finally, placing a retail dollar value on a Windows CD-ROM and calling it a dollar-equivalent contribution to an intended punitive settlement is wrong. Microsoft can stamp out millions of their product discs for negligible extra expense. Microsoft has already been paid for the development costs of their product. The value of that CD-ROM is measured in cents, not dollars.

Make them pay in cash please!

In a perfect world, Microsoft would also be compelled to publish and standardize the entire set of APIs (application programming interfaces) for the whole Windows OS family (95,98, NT, ME, XP), thus levelling the playing field for competing programmers.

Thank you

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